(b) A total of 102 rockets were fired by the militants during the last six months from across the LOC and 14 rockets were fired from inside Indian territory near the LOC. As these rockets got destroyed after exploding on impact, it is not possible to confirm if they were fitted with solar batteries. However, some unfired rockets recovered by Indian troops during search on our side of the LOC were found to be fitted with solar batteries.

(c) One of the methods of aiming these rockets is by tying them on trees. Some rockets appear to have been fired by tying them on trees.

(d) Approprivate measures were taken by Indian troops to counter the menace of rocket firing, which has since come down appreciably.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा गोलाबारी करने की घटनायें

5896. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन महीनों के दौरान पाकिस्तान द्वारा हमारी सीमाओं पर गोलाबारी की कितनी घटनाएं हुई हैं और इनमें कितने लोग हताहत हुए हैं, और

(ख) क्या भारतीय सीमा क्षेत्र में सभी सुरक्षा प्रबंध कर लिए गए हैं ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) जनवरी से मार्च, 1994 के दौरान पाकिस्तान के साथ नियंत्रण रेखा/अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर गोलाबारी की 554 घटनाएं हुई। इनमें छः सिविलियन घायल हुए । इनमें हमारे कितने सैनिक हताहत हुए इस संबंध में ब्यौरा प्रकट करना वांछनीय नहीं होगा।

(ख) सरकार हमारी सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाली सभी घटनाओं पर कड़ी नजर रखती है और इस संबंध में पूरी रक्षा तैयारी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाती है।

Defence cooperation with France

5897. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 18th February, 1994 to the effect that France wants better ties with India;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been signed; and

(c) if so, what is the extent to which India and France have agreed to improve defence cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Defence Cooperation with France is an ongoing process. A Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation had been signed in January, 1982. No new agreement has been signed in this regard at present.

Firing of rockets by Pak troops

5898. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistani troops fired rockets fitted with solar bombs in the month of March, 1994 in Poonch sector of Indo-Pak border on the Indian side;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to stop unprovoked rocket firing by Pakistani troops on Indian side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise in view of answer to part (a) above.

(c) Government keeps a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our national security and takes appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Revival of National Security Council

5899. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the revival of National Security Council to assess India's long term defence requirements;

(b) whether revival of the Council is being opposed by the bureaucrats; and

(c) what is the decision of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The question of restructuring the National Security Council is unler consideration of the Government.

Suggestions on restucturing of Indian Army

5900. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several defence experts have suggested restructuring of the Indian Army which is considered top-heavy and equipped with obsolete weaponry; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government to the suggestions made by these experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Three major reviews to optimise the organisational structure of the Army and make it more cost effective have been carried out by the following committees:—

(i) Expert Committee under a Corps Commander (1989-90)

(ii) Special Committee on Combat Echelons headed by the present COAS when he was commanding the Southern Army Command (July 1991).

(iii) Special Committee on Logistic Echelons by an Army Commander (October 1991).

(b) The recommendations of these committees are at various stages of implementation.

Terminal benefits to disable pensioners

5901. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases where normal and disabled pensioners, both belonging to combatant and non-combatant employees of the defence and other civil Ministries have been running wild goose chase to get their terminal disabled benefits for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the number of such cases that have come to light in the last 12 months; and

(c) the steps taken to check such delay in settling pension claims and how is it proposed to be ensured that such cases do not take place henceforth?